



Indianapolis *Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor*
REBUILDINDY
Department of Public Works

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★ STORM DRAIN MARKING PROGRAM

WHAT IS A STORM DRAIN?

A storm drain is a roadside opening through which storm water flows into an underground sewer system and is transported to a waterway. Other terms for a storm drain include channel, culvert, curb, ditch and gutter. Marion County's drainage system includes more than 70,000 storm drains.

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT WHAT ENTERS A STORM DRAIN?

Storm water picks up and carries pollutants as it runs off rooftops, parking lots, lawns and other surfaces. These pollutants include motor oil, fertilizer, litter and pet waste. The polluted storm water that flows through storm drains does not get treated before emptying into our streams, rivers and lakes. While individual storm drains may not contribute much to pollution, the combined contribution from many storm drains can negatively impact water quality and can be harmful to living things.

WHAT IS STORM DRAIN MARKING?

Many cities and neighborhoods throughout the country mark storm drains with colorful labels that say, "No Dumping - Drains to Stream," or a similar message informing people that the drain connects to a waterway. Newer storm drains often have these messages imprinted on them during manufacturing.



★ HOW CAN YOU HELP

Everyone can help keep common pollutants out of storm water by adopting these practices:

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, and don't apply them prior to rainy weather.
- Clean up after your pets and dispose of pet waste properly by putting it in the trash.
- Use a car wash instead of washing your car in your driveway.
- Clear trash and debris from storm drains.
- Never dispose of motor oil, antifreeze, battery acid and household chemicals down the drain. Properly dispose of these materials through the city's ToxDrop program. Log on to www.Indy.gov/ToxDrop to learn how.

★ BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works Storm Drain Marking Program recruits community volunteers to mark storm drains throughout the county and provides them with the tools and information to complete the project. The storm drains in your neighborhood were marked by a local group of volunteers who are interested in making a positive impact on the community. At least 10 volunteers are needed for each 3- to 4-hour event. If your group would like to participate, please contact stormdrain@indy.gov.